

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for corrective surgery in a human subject of a vocal cord defect being amenable to rectification by the augmentation of tissue subadjacent to the vocal cord defect comprising the steps of:

- a) retrieving a plurality of viable cells from the subject;
- b) culturing the viable cells *in vitro*; and
- c) placing an effective volume of the *in vitro* cultured cells into a tissue of the subject, the tissue being located in a position subadjacent to the vocal cord defect to be rectified.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the *in vitro* cultured cells are placed in the tissue of the subject by a method selected from injection, engraftment, engraftment by threading, and direct placement.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the *in vitro* cultured cells are fibroblasts.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein said fibroblasts are derived from a tissue selected from the group consisting of dermis, fascia, connective tissue, and lamina propria.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the *in vitro* cultured cells are adipocytes.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cultured cells are suspended in a collagen or modified collagen solution prior to injection.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cells are cultured in a collagen or modified collagen matrix.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the cells and the matrix are placed in the tissue by injection.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the cells and the matrix are placed in the tissue by engraftment.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein serum from the subject is used for the *in vitro* culture of cells.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the *in vitro* cultured cells are washed in phosphate buffered saline before being place into the tissue of the subject.

12- 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A method for corrective surgery in a human subject of a vocal cored defect being amenable to rectification by the augmentation of tissue subadjacent to the vocal cord defect comprising the steps of:

- a) retrieving a plurality of viable cells from the subject;

b) culturing the cells *in vitro* in a culture vessel for a time sufficient for the cells to produce extracellular matrix;

c) separating the extracellular matrix produced by the cells from the culture vessel;

d) collecting the extracellular matrix; and

e) placing the collected extracellular matrix into a tissue subadjacent to the vocal cord defect in the subject,

wherein the extracellular matrix is placed into a tissue selected from the group consisting of a scar, Reinke's space, a muscle of the vocal cord, and the lamina propria.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the extracellular matrix is exposed to a hypotonic solution prior to being placed into the tissue subadjacent to the vocal cord defect.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the autologous *in vitro* cultured cells are placed in a site of the vocal cord selected from the group consisting of a scar, Reinke's space, a muscle of the vocal cord, and the lamina propria.

20 -21. (Canceled)